IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (currently amended): A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell;

an intermediate electrical accumulator;

a common supply connector for coupling the fuel cell and intermediate electrical accumulator to an electrical consumer;

a sensor coupled to the fuel cell for sensing an internal operating parameter of the fuel cell;

a switch arranged and configured to be controlled to be in one of an open state and a closed state, the open state electrically isolating the fuel cell from the intermediate electrical accumulator and the common supply connector, and the closed state electrically coupling the fuel cell to the intermediate electrical accumulator and the common supply connector; and

a ~~pulse generator~~ control circuit for dynamically controlling the state of the switch between the open state and the closed state, ~~by using pulses having a duty factor variable~~ as a function of the ~~recorded~~ sensed operating parameter.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the switch comprises a semiconductor switch.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The fuel cell system of claim 20, wherein the semiconductor switch comprises a MOSFET.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the switch is thermally coupled to the fuel cell.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The fuel cell system of claim 22, wherein the fuel comprises a stack of fuel cells and the switch is arranged at an end of the stack.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the ~~pulse generator~~ control circuit is a pulse generator control circuit controlling the state of the switch between the open state and the closed state by using pulses having a duty factor variable as a function of the sensed operating parameter, the pulse generator control circuit being arranged and configured to control the ~~state of the switch between the open state and the closed state~~ duty factor variable as a function of a single operating parameter.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the ~~pulse generator~~ control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch to be in the open state as a function of a first operating parameter and to control the state of the switch to be in the closed state as a function of a second operating parameter.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the control circuit is a pulse generator control circuit controlling the state of the switch between the open state and the closed state by using pulses having a duty factor variable as a function of the sensed operating parameter and the pulses of the pulse generator control circuit have a frequency of between 0.1 and 50 kHz.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the sensor comprises a voltage sensor for recording a terminal voltage of the fuel cell.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 27, wherein the ~~pulse generator~~ control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch to be in the closed state when the voltage sensor senses an event of exceeding an upper limit voltage and to control the state of the switch to be in the open state when the voltage sensor senses an event of undershooting a lower limit voltage.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the sensor comprises an internal resistance sensor for recording an internal resistance of the fuel cell.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 29, wherein the ~~pulse generator~~ control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch to be in the closed state when the ~~voltage~~ internal resistance sensor senses an event of exceeding an upper limit resistance and to control the state of the switch to be in the open state when the ~~voltage~~ internal resistance sensor senses an event of undershooting a lower limit resistance.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor for recording a hydrogen partial pressure of the fuel cell.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 31, wherein the ~~pulse generator~~ control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch to be in the closed state when the ~~voltage~~ pressure sensor senses an event of exceeding an upper limit pressure and to control the state of the switch to be in the open state when the ~~voltage~~ pressure sensor senses an event of undershooting a lower limit pressure.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the ~~pulse generator~~ control circuit is arranged and configured to control an operation gas feed line valve as a function of the ~~recorded~~ sensed operating parameter.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the fuel cell is coupled to a hydrogen source reformer.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The fuel cell system of claim 34, wherein the ~~pulse generator~~ control circuit is arranged and configured to control a throughput of the reformer as a function of the ~~recorded~~ sensed operating parameter.

Claim 36 (new): A fuel cell system comprising:

a plurality of individual fuel cells arranged as a fuel cell stack;

an intermediate electrical accumulator;

a common supply connector for coupling the fuel cell stack and intermediate electrical accumulator to an electrical consumer;

at least one sensor being arranged and configured to sense an individual internal operating parameter of at least one of the fuel cells;

a switch arranged and configured to be controlled to be in one of an open state and a closed state, the open state electrically isolating the fuel cell stack from the intermediate electrical accumulator and the common supply connector, and the closed state electrically coupling the fuel cell stack to the intermediate electrical accumulator and the common supply connector; and

a control circuit for controlling the state of the switch between the open state and the closed state as a function of the sensed operating parameter, the control circuit causing the switch into the open state when the operating parameter undershoots a lower limit value and causing the switch into the closed state when the operating parameter exceeds an upper limit value.

Claim 37 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 36 wherein the at least one sensor includes a plurality of sensors, each of the plurality sensors being arranged and configured to sense an individual operating parameter of a respective one of the plurality of fuel cells, the control circuit controlling the state of the switch between the open state and the closed state as a function of the sensed operating parameters of the plurality of fuel cells.

Claim 38 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 36 wherein the lower limit value is below a limit beyond which combustion of carbon monoxide commences.